

Appl. No. 09/684,725
Amdt. Dated February 19, 2004
Attorney Docket No. PC10361A

Remarks/Arguments:

1. Claims 9-12, 23-25 and 32 remain pending.
2. Claim 23 is currently being amended. In addition to the previously submitted amendment (submitted by Applicant January 20, 2004) to Claim 23, in section (d), which was being amended to describe the claimed polynucleotide as encoding a polypeptide that mediates, in HEK-293 cells transfected with and expressing said polynucleotide, a specific, neuromedin U-induced increase in intracellular calcium following contact with neuromedin U, and which finds support in the specification, for example, at page 74, line 26, to page 77, line 5, claim 23 is being further amended herein to delete the "naturally occurring" language. As the Examiner will appreciate, no new matter is added by this amendment.
3. Claim 9 is currently being amended to recite that the claimed vector is an expression vector. Support for this amendment is found in the specification, for example, at page 29, lines 17-21. Accordingly, as the Examiner will appreciate, no new matter is added by amendment.
4. Claim 10 is currently being amended to refer to the expression vector of claim 9 and to further recite that the host cell is cultured. As the Examiner will appreciate, the amendment is supported by the specification, for example, at page 37, lines 32-34, and, therefore, no new matter is added by amendment.
5. Claims 11 and 12 are currently being amended to refer to an expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 23, reciting the same language as in claim 9 (as currently being amended). Claim 12 is further being amended to state that the claimed membrane preparation comprises a polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 23 at an increased level as compared to a membrane preparation from a cell of the same cell type which is not transformed or transfected with the expression vector. Given that this amendment is supported by the specification, for example, from page 74, line 9, to page 77, line 5, the Examiner will appreciate that no new matter is added by amendment.

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6. Applicant believes that the amendments hereinabove place the Application in condition for immediate allowance. Therefore, entry of the amendment hereinabove, and reconsideration of the Office Action mailed September 17, 2003 are respectfully requested. Such prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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